

*Steve Westly*  
*California State Controller*



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## ***California State Lands Commission Terminates Offshore Oil and Gas Lease***

**Sacramento, October 21, 2003** – The California State Lands Commission terminated an offshore oil and gas lease off Santa Barbara County yesterday, returning the offshore area to California's Marine Sanctuary. Under California law no further oil and gas leasing and development may occur in the area, which lies off the coast between Goleta and Gaviota.

Commissioner and State Controller Steve Westly said yesterday's action protects an important environmental resource. "We recaptured 2,000 acres of state waters that will enhance California's marine ecosystems and provide enjoyment for generations to come," Westly said. After yesterday's action by the Commission, 29 leases have been quitclaimed back to the state.

Currently, there are 17 leases in state waters producing oil and gas.

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